

Frequently Asked Questions about B Waivers, Civil Surgeons and Immigration

B WAIVERS

What evaluation does this B Waiver need?

Determining the evaluation needed requires careful review of the B waiver information provided to you. Each B waiver will be different.

Most adult B waivers (>15 years old) are referred by CDC due to an abnormal overseas chest x-ray. The follow-up needed by the local health department (LHD) for adults varies depending upon the overseas chest x-ray and whether or not TB treatment was given overseas.

Most adults will have a disk of the overseas chest x-ray. Send the B waiver for a new chest x-ray and ask the radiologist to compare the new chest x-ray with the old. Also, if the B waiver was not previously treated for TB, obtain a TB skin test or interferon gamma release assay (QuantiFERON or T SPOT). After you have this information, if the next steps are unclear, call the TB Program, OHA for consultation.

Most children B waivers are referred due to a positive QuantiFERON or TB skin test overseas. Follow-up by either:

-Repeating the TB screening to confirm it is positive.

OR

-Obtaining a chest x-ray. If the chest x-ray is normal, treatment for latent TB infection can be started.

What are the timelines and goals for B Waiver Evaluation?

The following should take place:

Within **30 days of EDN notification date** (not receipt of paperwork)

- Initial U.S. medical evaluation (C1-C3)
- U.S. review of any overseas CXR (C4-C6)
- U.S. review of any overseas treatment (C12-C14)
- A new domestic CXR (C7-C10)
- Comparison of old overseas and new domestic CXR (C11)
- Collection of sputum (C15)

Within **90 days of EDN notification date** (not receipt of paperwork)

- Disposition completed (D1-D2)
- Diagnosis completed (D3)
- If TB confirmed check (D4)
- U.S treatment initiated (E1-E2)

Within **1 year of treatment start date**

- U.S treatment completed (E3-E4)
- U.S. treatment incomplete (E-5)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Information about B waiver follow-up should be submitted to us or entered into EDN 3 times: **1-completion of the initial evaluation (30 days after EDN notification date), 2-evaluation disposition, diagnosis and treatment initiation (90 days after EDN**

notification date) and 3-completion of treatment (1 year). This Information must be entered into EDN (by us or you) **within 5 business days.**

What steps should I take to find this person? When do I stop looking?

In general, you should not spend more than 30 days trying to locate B Waiver patients. Also remember B Waivers are sent a letter upon arrival instructing them to report to the health department. They may come to you before you notify them.

Following are suggested steps and timeframes:

- 1- Within **5 business days** of receiving paperwork attempt to call the sponsor's phone number as listed on paperwork (if available) and/or send a letter to the sponsor's address.
- 2- If no response **after 10 business days** of receiving paperwork, a visit to the sponsor's home should take place if resources allow. If a home visit is not possible, try other methods to locate the B waiver and send a second letter via certified mail.
- 3- If you still haven't found the B Waiver after 30 days, check the appropriate box on the form and send it back to the State or submit via EDN.

Letters and educational materials should be language appropriate to the greatest extent possible! Remember also to document your attempts.

What should I do if the person has moved out of my jurisdiction?

Call the TB Program, OHA at 971-673-0174. If you are an EDN user, you may transfer the B Waiver via EDN or call the TB Program, OHA for assistance.

What should I do if a B Waiver comes to my clinic with their paperwork but I haven't gotten the forms from the State?

Call the TB Program, OHA at 971-673-0174.

CIVIL SURGEONS

What is a Civil Surgeon?

Immigrants who currently reside in the U.S. that wish to change their immigration status (example, become a permanent resident) are required to have a medical examination. The medical examination must be conducted by a Civil Surgeon who has been designated by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Are LHDs required to follow-up with TB referrals from Civil Surgeons?

LHDs are not required to follow-up with referrals from Civil Surgeons for TB skin tests, chest x-rays or treatment of LTBI.

BUT, if the Civil Surgeon suspects the immigrant has active TB disease (signs and symptoms of TB and/or an abnormal chest x-ray) they must report this to the LHD and the LHD should assist the Civil Surgeon in determining what needs to be done to rule out active TB disease.

Are there any referrals from Civil Surgeons LHDs are required to follow-up on?

If the immigrant has an abnormal chest x-ray suggestive of TB or signs and symptoms of TB disease the Civil Surgeon must refer this to the LHD. The LHD should assist the Civil Surgeon in determining what needs to be done to rule out active TB disease.

Who can Civil Surgeons contact if they have questions on the screening process?

Civil Surgeons can email the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) at cdcqap@cdc.gov .

IMMIGRANTS

How do I know whether or not an immigrant is a B waiver?

You should receive notification from EDN or the TB Program, OHA of all B waivers. Unfortunately, sometimes notification is delayed and the individual comes to the LHD before you have the official paperwork from the State. The immigrant should have with them their own set of B waiver paperwork and/or a letter instructing them to report to the LHD. If they have none of this or have a different type of paperwork...they may not be a B waiver! Call the TB Program, OHA at **971-673-0174** for assistance.

We have immigrants come into our clinic asking for help with their immigration paperwork that don't seem to be B waivers. What should we do?

Most likely these are immigrants who already live in the U.S. and are now seeking an adjustment in their immigration status. They may need to be referred to a civil surgeon for screening. A list of civil surgeons is available at:

https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=offices.type&OfficeLocator.office_type=CIV

If there are further questions, you can refer the immigrant to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Services National Customer Service Center at **1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833)**. Although it's good to help out when resources allow, it is not the responsibility of the TB Program, OHA or LHDs to assist with this immigration readjustment process or provide these individuals with LTBI treatment.